

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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VALIDITY QUESTIONS:

How does Validity testing affect Drug screening results?

Samples that normally would have screened positive may be negative when diluted as the drug concentration drops with dilution. Samples that are Substituted, Adulterated or Invalid are not normal human urine and the drug testing results may not be valid. Recollection would be advisable.

What is a Dilute specimen?

A sample is considered dilute if the Creatinine level is less than 10 mg/dL **AND** the Specific Gravity is less than 1.0030. Drinking large volumes of fluids, medical conditions, medications, etc. can cause a sample to be diluted. All Dilute Specimens are confirmed. They are considered the same as a positive drug test result according to Offender Drug Testing Policy D 5-7.1 Section III G 5. The Offender Drug Testing Policy D 5-7.1 III G 7a states that “Revocation will not be recommended for diluted and invalid results.”

Can a Dilute sample have a Positive drug screening result?

Yes. Even when diluted, some drug concentrations in the urine may be higher than our cutoff values and produce a positive result. They can be confirmed the same as a normal sample.

What is a Substituted sample?

A sample is considered Substituted when the Creatinine level is less than 2 mg/dL **AND** the Specific Gravity is less than or equal to 1.0010 or greater than or equal to 1.0200. All Substituted samples are confirmed. They are considered the same as a positive drug test result according to Offender Drug Testing Policy D 5-7.1 Section III G 5.

What is an Adulterated sample?

All samples are tested for Oxidants. Additional testing is done if the Oxidant level is greater than or equal to 200 mcg/ml.

A sample is considered Adulterated if one or more of the following is found:

Oxidant level is greater than or equal to 200 mcg/ml and the Nitrite level is greater than or equal to 500 mcg/ml.
Oxidant level is greater than or equal to 200 mcg/ml and the Chromate level is greater than or equal to 50 mcg/ml.

Oxidant level is greater than or equal to 200 mcg/ml and the pH is less than 3.0 or greater than or equal to 11.0.
A dipstick shows abnormal for bleach or peroxides.

An Adulterated sample is considered the same as a positive drug test result according to Offender Drug Testing policy D 5-7.1 Section III G 5.

What is an Invalid sample – Inconsistent Creatinine and Specific Gravity?

A sample is considered Invalid if the Creatinine is less than 2.0 mg/dL AND the Specific Gravity is between 1.0010 and 1.0200. All Invalid samples are confirmed. Drug screening results are not valid for this sample and Offender Drug Testing Policy D 5-7.1 Section III G 6 states that the specimen be recollected. The Offender Drug Testing Policy D 5-7.1 III G 7a states that “Revocation will not be recommended for diluted and invalid results.”

What is Creatine? Does consuming the nutritional supplement cause problems with Validity testing?

Creatine occurs naturally in our bodies and helps supply energy to muscle and nerve cells. Creatine can be converted to and from Creatine Phosphate. When muscles contract Creatine and Creatine Phosphate are converted to Creatinine. Creatinine is usually eliminated in the urine at a relatively constant rate making it a good marker to assess the validity of a sample. A study published in Clinical Chemistry (46:295-297, 2000) concluded that, at recommended doses, taking an oral Creatine supplement will not have an effect on the Creatinine level, pH or Specific Gravity of the urine sample.